AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A system for transmitting an authorization message to a mobile platform comprising:

at least one ~~ground~~ base station having transmit equipment, the transmit equipment further comprising a path having a unique address; and

at least one space-based transponder that transmits data to the mobile platform; ~~and~~

wherein when the transmit equipment transmits the unique address in a signal to the mobile platform via the space-based transponder, the unique address serves as the authorization message, and wherein the signal is transmitted to the mobile platform repeatedly at a predetermined interval ~~at least approximately every thirty seconds~~.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) A system for transmitting an authorization message to a mobile platform comprising:

at least one ~~ground~~ base station having transmit equipment, the transmit equipment comprising return link assignments; and

at least one space-based transponder that transmits data to the mobile platform;

wherein when the transmit equipment transmits the return link assignment in a signal to the mobile platform via the space-based transponder, the return link assignment serves as the authorization message, and wherein the signal is transmitted to the mobile platform repeatedly at a predetermined interval ~~at least approximately every thirty seconds~~.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) A system for transmitting an authorization message to a mobile platform comprising:

at least one ~~ground~~ base station having transmit equipment, the transmit equipment further comprising a path having a unique address and return link assignments; and

at least one space-based transponder that transmits data to the mobile platform; ~~and~~

wherein the transmit equipment combines the unique address and the return link assignment into a single signal that serves as the authorization message, and wherein the single signal is transmitted to the mobile platform repeatedly at a predetermined interval ~~at least approximately every thirty seconds~~.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) A method for transmitting an authorization message from a ~~ground~~ base station to a mobile platform, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) transmitting a signal comprising a unique address from a ~~ground~~ base station to a mobile platform via a space-based transponder;

(b) using the unique address as the authorization message;

(c) transmitting the signal to the mobile platform repeatedly at a predetermined interval; and

(d) using the authorization message to authorize the mobile system to continue transmitting for a predefined time period after receiving the authorization message.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) A method for transmitting an authorization message from a ~~ground~~ base station to a mobile platform, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) transmitting a signal comprising a return link assignment from a ~~ground~~ base station to a mobile platform via a space-based transponder;

(b) using the return link assignment as the authorization message;

(c) transmitting the signal to the mobile platform repeatedly at a predetermined interval; and

(d) using the authorization message to authorize the mobile system to continue transmitting for a predefined time period after receiving the authorization message.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) A method for transmitting an authorization message from a ~~ground~~ base station to a mobile platform, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) embedding a return link assignment within a signal comprising a unique address;

(b) transmitting the signal comprising the unique address and the return link assignment from a ~~ground~~ base station to a mobile platform via a space-based transponder;

(c) ~~using the return link assignment to transmit to the mobile platform with the unique address signal at least approximately every thirty seconds; and~~transmitting the combination return link assignment and unique address signal to the mobile platform repeatedly at a predetermined interval; and

(d) using the authorization message to authorize the mobile system to continue transmitting for a predefined time period after receiving the authorization message.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) A method for transmitting an authorization message from a ~~ground~~ base station to a mobile platform, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) activating a link manager to communicate with a routing unit that provides communication between the ~~ground~~ base station and the mobile platform via transmitting equipment;

(b) determining a path having a unique address used as the authorization message;

(c) transmitting a signal comprising the unique address from the transmitting equipment to the mobile platform repeatedly at a predetermined interval via a space-based transponder; and

(d) using the authorization message to authorize the mobile system to continue transmitting for a predefined time period after receiving the authorization message.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently Amended) A method for transmitting an authorization message from a ~~ground~~ base station to a mobile platform, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) activating a link manager to communicate with a routing unit that provides communication between the ~~ground~~ base station and the mobile platform via transmitting equipment;

(b) determining a path having a return link assignment used as the authorization message;

(c) transmitting a signal comprising the return link assignment~~unique address~~ from the transmitting equipment to the mobile platform repeatedly at a predetermined interval via a space-based transponder; and

(d) using the authorization message to authorize the mobile system to continue transmitting for a predefined time period after receiving the authorization message.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently Amended) A method for transmitting an authorization message from a ~~ground~~ base station to a mobile platform, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) activating a link manager to communicate with a routing unit that provides communication between the ~~ground~~ base station and the mobile platform via transmitting equipment;

(b) determining a single path having both a unique address and a return link assignment used as the authorization message;

(c) transmitting a signal comprising the unique address and the return link assignment from the transmitting equipment to the mobile platform repeatedly at a predetermined interval via a space-based transponder; and

(d) using the authorization message to authorize the mobile system to continue transmitting for a predefined time period after receiving the authorization message.

18. (Cancelled)